

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An L-Lysine-producing bacterium ~~baeteria~~ of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* comprising:

- a) an overexpressed wild type *pyc* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding pyruvate carboxylase, wherein overexpression of said *pyc* gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said *pyc* gene, and
- b) an overexpressed wild type *dapA* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding dihydrodipicolinate synthase, wherein overexpression of said *dapA* gene is achieved by using a *dapA* promotor selected from the group consisting of: the *dapA* promotor comprising the MC20 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 and the *dapA* promotor comprising the MA16 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and

~~wherein over-expression of said *pyc* gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said *pyc* gene~~

~~wherein overexpression of said *dapA* gene is achieved by using a *dapA* promotor selected from the group consisting of: the *dapA* promotor comprising the MC20 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 and the *dapA* promotor comprising the MA20 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 and~~

whereby said overexpression of said wild type *pyc* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* or said wild type *dapA* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* gives a pyruvate carboxylase activity or dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity above the level of that found in a wild type *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The bacterium ~~Bacteria~~ of claim 1, in which a *lysE* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding the lysine export carrier is overexpressed, wherein overexpression of said ~~LysE~~ gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said gene ~~LysE-genes~~.

Claims 4-15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) An *Escherichia coli* K-12 strain DH5 α /pEC7lysEpyc, deposited as DSM12872.

Claims 17-21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6.

Claims 24-26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The bacterium *Bacteria* of claim 1 further comprising an overexpressed *lysC* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding aspartate kinase, wherein said gene is expressed at a level that is higher than its expression level in wild type *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) The bacterium *Bacteria* of claim 27, wherein said aspartate kinase is resistant to inhibition by lysine and/or threonine.

Claim 29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) An L-Lysine-producing bacterium *bacteria* of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* comprising:

- a) an overexpressed wild type *pyc* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding pyruvate carboxylase, wherein overexpression of said *pyc* gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said *pyc* gene,
- b) an overexpressed wild type *dapA* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding dihydrodipicolinate synthase, wherein overexpression of said *dapA* gene is achieved by using a *dapA* promoter selected from the group consisting of: the *dapA* promoter comprising the MC20 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 and the *dapA* promoter comprising the MA16 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and
- c) an overexpressed wild type *lysE* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding a lysine export carrier, wherein overexpression of said *lysE* gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said *lysE* gene, and
wherein the overexpressed genes are expressed at levels that are higher than their respective expression levels in wild type *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Inventor(s): KREUTZER *et al.*
Application No.: 09/810,521
Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0278416

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) The bacterium ~~Bacteria~~ of claim 30 further comprising an overexpressed lysC gene of Corynebacterium glutamicum encoding aspartate kinase.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) The bacterium ~~Bacteria~~ of claim 31, wherein said overexpressed aspartate kinase is resistant to inhibition by lysine and/or threonine.